

RWJ
Claim 12-¹⁵~~18~~ (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Previously presented) A bipolar electrosurgical instrument, comprising:

inner and outer members each including a jaw member having an opposable seal surface disposed thereon, the inner and outer members being movable from a first position wherein the opposable seal surfaces are disposed in spaced-apart relation relative to one another to a second position to facilitate grasping tissue between the opposable seal surfaces, the opposable seal surfaces including a non-stick coating for reducing tissue adhesion during the sealing process, the non-stick material being deposited on the opposable seal surfaces and including one of TiN, ZrN, TiAlN, CrN, nickel/chrome alloys with a Ni/Cr ratio of approximately 5:1, Inconel 600, Ni200 and Ni201;

at least one connector in electrical communication with the opposable seal surfaces and adapted to electrically couple the opposable seal surfaces to a source of electrosurgical energy to facilitate conducting electrosurgical energy through tissue disposed therebetween during usage of the instrument;

at least one stop disposed adjacent to at least one of the opposable seal surfaces to maintain a separation distance between the opposable seal surfaces when the inner and outer members are moved to the second position; and